GEOSUFFOLK TIMES

Newsletter 68

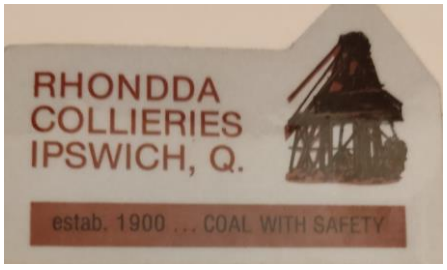
January 2026

The cliff north of Benacre Broad, Oct 2025

Caroline Markham 11.01.26. Copies of GeoSuffolk leaflets are in the Archive on www.geosuffolk.co.uk

An Ipswich Dinosaur

'Rhondda Collieries Ipswich' reads this sticker I came across during a web search. Fortunately, the 'Q' is a clue – it's in Queensland, Australia. The coal mine was established in 1900 and was active into the 1960's, working the late Triassic Ipswich Coal Measures. In 1964 a series of three-toed dinosaur footprints were discovered in siltstone overlying a coal seam some 213 metres below the surface. Remains of the plant *Dicroidium* were also found, perhaps a snack for the dinosaur. A plaster cast of one of the tracks was made in 1964 and is in Queensland Museum. There were possibly dinosaurs living on the London Platform (including our Ipswich) at that time, but we were a land mass with little evidence of suitable environments for preserving inhabitants. Bob Markham (RM)



Suffolk Naturalists' Society

The geological papers from the Suffolk Natural History journal and Transactions of the Suffolk Naturalists' Society are online. Find them at Suffolk Geology Stack - Issuu for Ingham, Shelley, Bungay, Covehithe, Newbourne and much more.

Meet GeoSuffolk

February 18th 10am-3pm 'Love our Planet' at Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich. What will you discover at the GeoSuffolk stand? Rocks from the Earth's mantle and crust (including deep ocean manganese nodules); rocks from the solar system (meteorites); and atmospheric phenomena (including fulgerite) – plus earthquake drill! Love our Planet Discovery Day | Ipswich Museums

Easton Bavents to Pakefield Cliffs SSSI

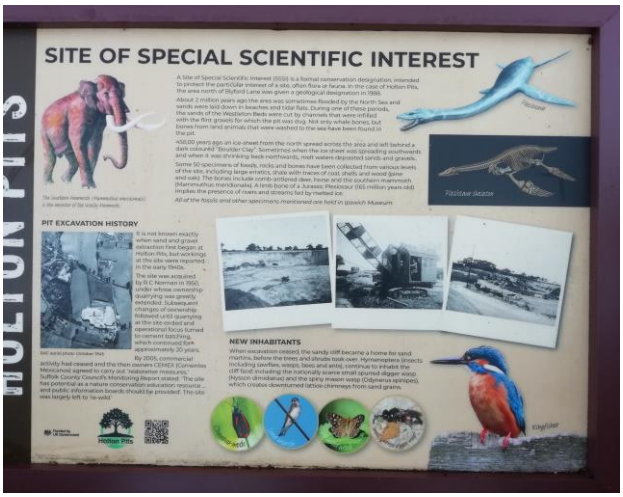
GeoSuffolk surveyed this 13km stretch of coast last summer/autumn for the Geology Trust (and ultimately Natural England). Howard Mottram did most of the work and has just submitted the results, which include 70+ photos of the cliffs and beaches of north Suffolk. The strata are particularly noted for the Plio-Pleistocene sands, clays, and fossils, with Norwich Crag; Chillesford Clay/Easton Bavents Clay; and Westleton Gravel. Howard's beautiful photo of stripey cliffs in the banner above shows Pleistocene sand/gravel on Chillesford Clay. (It is a very long walk along the beach to reach this locality.) The Chillesford Clay forms a marker horizon along much of these cliffs. The photo below, taken further south shows Westleton Beds sands disturbed by cryoturbation at the top of the cliff, resting on Chillesford Clay. CM

Otley Gull

The Otley Neighbourhood Plan was formally adopted by East Suffolk DC on September 24th 2025. Otley Gull 'as a feature of ecological (and geological) interest' has been designated as a County Wildlife Site by the Suffolk Wildlife Trust. In Suffolk a 'Gull' is a small incised valley landform, they are found in many parts of the county - see CM's article in White Admiral no 54 Volume 54 (Spring 2003) | Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service RM

Holton Pit SSSI

This disused gravel pit is designated for the Norwich Crag Westleton Gravels at its base, with Pleistocene tills and outwash gravel above. It is managed by the Holton Pits Community Interest Company https://holtonpits.org which has recently erected an excellent geo-panel (below). For more on the geology of this SSSI see 'A Look Back at the Holton Gravel Pit in NE Suffolk' by Howard Mottram and RM in Suffolk Natural History 2022 Volume 58 (2022) | Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service CM



Great Waldingfield Church Reredos

St Lawrence Church in Great Waldingfield was recently awarded a grant to support the restoration of their reredos. This is panelled with various 'marbles', mainly unlocalised, but there is granite (with crystals of pink feldspar and colourless quartz) from Mount Sinai. One panel is illustrated in our leaflet 'GeoSuffolk goes to Church in South Suffolk'. (The external wall by the front door also features.) Restoration work is by Skillington Workshop of Grantham. In 2024 Skillington Workshop conserved the late 15th century alabaster monument of John de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, and his wife Elizabeth, in St Andrew's Church, Wingfield. (Elizabeth was Plantagenet, sister of Edward IV and Richard III.) RM

GeoAnglia

- Norwich Science Festival talks include 'Whispers of Rock' by Dr Anjana Khatwa on February 19th 6pm at The Forum. Tickets £8, booking essential Whispers of Rock | Norwich Science Festival
- The Essex Gem and Mineral Show is on February 21st from 10am – 4pm at North Romford Community Centre. Adults £2. Always a good show! Essex Gem & Mineral Show – Essex Rock and Mineral Society

Stone for Sizewell C Infrastructure

The Ipswich Transport Journal for January 2026 (here acknowledged) records stone for the Sizewell C Construction Project (presumably including railway ballast) arriving at Griffin Wharf (West Bank) in Ipswich in November 2025, for distribution to Sizewell. There was Carboniferous Limestone from Tunstead, Derbyshire; Anorthosite from Karmoy, Norway; Diorite from Penmaenmaur, north Wales (an intrusion into Ordovician slates and also known by the trade name 'Penmaenmaur granite'); Granodiorite from Glensanda, Morvern Peninsula, Scotland – it is part of the Loch Sunart geological complex and mined from the mountain Meall na Eassiche, and only accessible by sea. Will 'escaping' pieces of these rocks be brought to us for identification in the future? Other 'escapees' brought to us over the years have included 'Thomas slag' (an industrial calcium phosphate) from a field at Brundon, and a silicon-aluminium alloy from Ipswich Dock. RM

An Aldeburgh Find

A Recent GeoSuffolk investigation (October 2025) at the former Aldeburgh brickpit exposed the junction of the Scrobicularia Crag with the underlying Coralline Crag rock-bed. Somewhat unexpected were a number of large, unrolled flints with small areas broken off (see photo below, which also has some fossil *Mytlius* mussel shells in crag adhering to the flint). What process brought them to Aldeburgh, and from where? Many years ago, I saw similar large flints at the same geological junction in a pit at Sudbourne, but they were out of reach of the ladder I borrowed. I thank Mark Oakes for permission to dig at Aldeburgh and his support for geological investigation. RM

An Introduction to Geology and Earth Sciences

The Ipswich Institute is running this course by Richard Welbourne on Wednesdays in January and February this year. There are five sessions from 13.30 – 15.30, starting on January 14th, cost £42. An Introduction to Geology and Earth Sciences